



The Iowa Afterschool Alliance (IAA) Newsletter is a monthly venue of information and updates on afterschool programs and policies.

For more information, please contact Brooke Findley at bfindley@sppg.com or 515.243.2000.

In this issue:

- » **Update from the IAA Network Leads**
- » **Save these Dates – Important events you won't want to miss!**
- » **Nominate Outstanding Students for IAA Recognition in June**
- » **Legislative Update and Bills of Interest, April 9, 2009**
- » **Technical Assistance: Accessing Economic Stimulus Funding**
- » **Financing Summer Learning Opportunities by Utilizing Federal Funds**
- » **Upcoming Professional Development, Events, and Funding Opportunities**

Update from the IAA Network Leads

Greetings,

Iowa Afterschool Alliance staff has kept very busy this month monitoring legislation and advocating for afterschool at the Iowa Capitol. We have had the pleasure of assisting many of you in your advocacy efforts personally and on behalf of the IAA. It is important to remember that the IAA owes the success of our initiatives in building support to each of you and the work that you do both at home and in your statewide advocacy efforts.

Iowa Afterschool Alliance staff has also been following the policy movements at the federal level in support of afterschool. On April 2, an amendment to the FY2010 budget was offered by Senators Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and John Ensign (R-NV) that would increase funding for 21st Century Community Learning Centers. Thanks to many calls from our Iowa Afterschool Alliance advocates to Iowa Senators Grassley and Harkin, within hours of it being introduced the amendment was adopted. This is an important victory for afterschool, but it's only the first step toward gaining greater funding for 21st CCLC in the 2010 budget. Please be diligent that more opportunities to advocate for this and other policies at the federal level are on the way.

We have also been busy learning as much as we can about the America Recovery and Reinvestment Act and how afterschool programs may benefit from this new funding stream. As the network learns more about these new opportunities, please be on the lookout for updated resources and information that you can use as a local advocate for afterschool programs and policy. A particular area of interest for IAA staff concentrates upon partnership

opportunities for afterschool programs and their local workforce services providers. Please let us know if you have a particular interest in exploring this option or have success in building this partnership so that we may learn from you and assist your counterparts from around the state!



Thank you for your continued support for Iowa's afterschool programs. Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,

Brooke Findley and Michelle Rich

Iowa Afterschool Alliance Network Leads

Save these Dates! Important events that you won't want to miss!

» Iowa Afterschool Alliance Summit, June 23 and 24, 2009

Hilton Garden Inn, Johnston, Iowa

The Iowa Afterschool Alliance will be hosting a discussion on how we can best prepare our students to succeed in the 21st Century. Representatives from diverse sectors, including education, workforce, business, and justice will join in on the discussion. Registration and other details will soon be announced.

» Every Child Matters' Step Up for Kids, October 5-9, 2009

Due to the success of last year's events for Step Up for Kids, Every Child Matters has decided to make Step Up for Kids a week-long, nationwide event this year.

Nominate Outstanding Students for IAA Recognition in June

The Iowa Afterschool Alliance is asking programs to nominate outstanding afterschool students for a recognition award. Based on the nominations received, the Iowa Afterschool Alliance will choose a small group of students to be recognized at the IAA's Afterschool Champions Recognition Dinner on the evening of Tuesday, June 23, 2009. Students do not have to attend to be recognized, but students and a guardian are encouraged to attend the awards dinner. Dinner will be provided to all students and guardians that attend. Each student will receive a special award and will be recognized by name at the event.

All nominations should be sent to Michelle Rich at mrich@sppg.com or 515-243-5941 by May 8, 2009.

Please include the student's name, grade, and contact information, as well as a short summary of why you think the student is outstanding. Please include your contact information and program name with the nomination.

Legislative Update and Bills of Interest, April 9, 2009

The Legislature is moving quickly toward adjournment of the 2009 session. Talk around the Capitol has the legislature heading toward Adjournment in mid April, a few weeks ahead of their scheduled adjournment date of May 1, 2009.

Budget

Now that the two funnels have passed, most of the focus at the Statehouse is on the budget for state fiscal year 2010, along with a few other significant revenue-related bills. The budget outlook is not good and most budgets are trimmed anywhere from 8-10% or more. The Revenue Estimating Conference met in late March and lowered their revenue forecast for the State. With the lower forecast the Governor was required to release a revised budget to legislators. The Governor included \$540,000 in his revised budget for before and afterschool funding. However, before and afterschool grant funding was zeroed out of the legislature's budget for FY10 and remains so as the bill moves through the Senate and House. The IAA is working diligently to restore the funding and would encourage all members to contact their legislator to ask them to fund before and afterschool programs!

Please visit the Iowa General Assembly website to find your legislator. Click on "legislators" to find your legislator or learn more about the committees on which they serve. The website also has many great resources, including information on how a bill becomes a law and bill search tools.

The following is a list of bills IAA members may be interested in. Bills with a double asterisk did not make the funnel deadline (considered "dead" for the remainder of session). Please follow the hyperlink provided for full text of the bill:

Education Budget [SF 470](#) (formerly [SSB 1322](#))

A study bill for an act relating to the funding of, the operation of, and appropriation of moneys to the college student aid commission, the department for the blind, the department of education, and the state board of regents, providing for related matters, and providing effective dates.

Regulation of Child Care [HF 754](#) (formerly [HF 419](#))

An act relating to regulation of child care by the Department of Human Services by providing for licensing of child development homes, establishing a regulatory fee and appropriating the fee proceeds, making penalties applicable, and providing effective dates.

Pilot Project for High-Quality Child Care for Low-Income Children [SF 414](#) (formerly [SF 179](#))

An act providing for a pilot project supporting high-quality child care for low-income children.

****Indicators Assessing the Effectiveness of School Ready Children Grants [HF 703](#) (formerly [HF 357](#))**

An act relating to the indicators used to assess the effectiveness of school ready children grants under the community empowerment initiative.

Research and Development Pre-K Through Grade 12 [HF 739](#) (formerly [HF 565](#))

A bill for an act providing for a state research and development prekindergarten through grade twelve school.

State Child Care Advisory Council [HF 562](#) (formerly [HF 383](#))



An act relating to the council on human services and the state child care advisory council.

Education Appropriations [SSB 1279](#)

A study bill for an act relating to the funding of, the operation of, and appropriation of moneys to the college student aid commission, the Department for the Blind, the Department of Education, and the state board of regents, and providing for related matters.



School District Reorganization [SF 360](#) (formerly [SSB 1101](#))

A study bill for an act relating to the accreditation of school districts and nonpublic schools and the reorganization of school districts.

****School District Dropout Funding [HF 282](#) (formerly [HSB 3](#))**

A study bill for an act relating to the funding of school district programs for returning dropouts and dropout prevention.

Youth Development Collaboration [HF 315](#) (formerly [HSB 8](#))

A study bill for an act creating an Iowa collaboration for youth development council and state of Iowa youth advisory council in the Department of Human Rights.

Statewide Writing Assessment [SF 359](#) (formerly [SSB 1016](#))

A study bill for an act relating to the establishment and implementation of a statewide writing assessment for public school students in grades three, six, and ten.

Compulsory School Attendance (Ending) Age [HF 259](#) (formerly [HF 40](#) and [HSB 38](#))

A study bill for an act relating to the compulsory school attendance age and providing effective dates. This bill raises the compulsory school attendance age from 16 to 17. The bill requires each school district to take every effort to prevent students from dropping out of school, and to align and maximize funding streams that may be used to support students who have the potential to drop out of school.

School District Disaster Relief Adjustments [SF 81](#) (formerly [SSB 1013](#))

A study bill for an act relating to assisting schools to recover from disaster by changing the approval method for transfers of emergency fund moneys, by modifying certain funding provisions to relate to disaster recovery, and by allowing area education agency boards greater authority to purchase and lease-purchase property.

****Duties and Operations of DE and Local School Boards [HF 732](#) (formerly [HSB 22](#))**

A study bill for an act relating to the duties and operations of the department of education and local school boards.

Technical Assistance: Accessing Economic Stimulus Funding

With all of the talk about economic recovery and stimulus funds, it is useful to review identified funding and the mechanisms that are in place to allocate the funding. Governor Culver has established a website related to the funds coming to Iowa through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. As money becomes available in Iowa, it will be important for programs to remain flexible and available, as there is a high expectation to get money out quickly in order to maximize economic impact. For more information on the funding

Iowa will receive and the funding streams used to deliver the money, visit <http://recovery.iowa.gov/index.html>.



The Iowa Afterschool Alliance has created [a table](#) summarizing the total funds being allocated to Iowa and how afterschool programs may access the funding streams. For additional information on strategies to access the funds, please visit the Afterschool Alliance website at http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/policyEconRecovery.cfm#state_data.

For updates on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act from the Iowa Department of Education, [click here](#).

Additional Opportunities in the Stimulus Funding – Innovations in Education

The stimulus contains two key federal programs for boosting education reforms at the local level – a \$650 million Innovation Fund and more than \$4 billion in State Incentive Grants will be allocated to states. The U.S. Department of Education will award State Incentive Grants in FY2010 to states that have made “significant progress” in achieving equity in teacher distribution, establishing a longitudinal data system, and improving assessments for English-language learners and special education students. Each state that receives an Incentive Grant must use at least 50 percent of the funds to provide school districts with sub grants, based on the most recent Title I allocations. Beyond those stipulations, however, the Department of Education will have room to shape the grant awards. Similarly, the Department will be able to shape the criteria for Innovation Fund awards, which are to recognize academic achievement made by schools and school districts. The stimulus language stipulates that the awards will go to school districts, partnerships between districts, nonprofit organizations, and state education departments that have made achievement gains.

For more information on these grants and others, please visit the [U.S. Department of Education’s website](#).

Financing Summer Learning Opportunities by Utilizing Federal Funds – Joint Paper from the Education Commission of the States and the National Center for Summer Learning

As states and districts prepare for the disbursement of billions of dollars from the federal stimulus bill, there is a tremendous opportunity both to create jobs quickly and take a major step toward closing the achievement gap through innovative programming.

A [joint paper](#) from the Education Commission of the States and the National Center for Summer Learning at Johns Hopkins University identifies how states can use summer learning programs to maximize new federal funds while also increasing their chances of receiving additional federal funding through the Race to the Top awards program (Innovation funding). Secretary Duncan has emphasized that investing in out of school time is critical to a successful Race to the Top application.

Upcoming Professional Development, Events, and Funding Opportunities



Youth Work Methods Training Series Provided by the United Way of Central Iowa

The Youth Work Methods Training Series consists of ten two-hour workshops designed to address needs identified by the Youth Program Quality Assessment tool. These workshops cover issues related to point of service quality and focus on the “how to’s” of youth work. Everyone is welcome to register for the trainings; having a YPQA completed is not a pre-requisite to attend. Participants are not required to attend each workshop in the series. The trainings are free, but registration is required to attend and is limited to 25 attendees. Please note each training is two hours long and has been scheduled around the lunch hour, but lunch is not provided.

Register via the link below. You will need to create a user name and password, and note that 10,000 Hours is not required to register for the Youth Work Methods Trainings.

[Click here to register for any of the Youth Work Method Trainings](#)

Applications Now Being Accepted for Business Horizons 2009

Business Horizons (BH) is a week-long experience, sponsored by the Iowa Association of Business and Industry Foundation. BH will be held at Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa (12 miles south of Des Moines) on July 26-31, 2009.

This unique program gives students an opportunity to gain an understanding of economics, the free enterprise system, entrepreneurship, and a wide variety of careers while working in a team environment, developing a product from junk and duct tape (creative types love this part), running a mock business, developing a marketing plan (including a TV infomercial) and presenting that plan to potential investors. It is also about improving leadership skills, personal development, living on a college campus and meeting new friends from across the state.

Each student accepted will receive a scholarship (a \$750 value) provided by an Iowa business, organization, or an individual to pay for most of the cost of delivering the Business Horizons program. Students pay only \$250 (if received by May 15), which covers all meals, housing, conference materials and activities. After April 17 the registrations fee is still only \$300. If a student is an excellent candidate but unable to pay the registration fee, please contact the [ABI Foundation](#).

The deadline for applications is May 15 for priority consideration. Students will only be accepted after this date if space is available. To learn more, [click here](#).

Iowa Women’s Foundation Grants Available

The Iowa Women’s Foundation (IWF) is a nonprofit, grant-making foundation dedicated to expanding opportunities and promoting positive social change. Our mission is to improve the lives of Iowa women and girls through the power of philanthropy, advocacy, and collaboration. During the past fifteen years, IWF has awarded over ¼ of a million dollars in grants to 84 projects in over 65 counties throughout Iowa. Any non-profit (501 (c) (3) tax-

exempt) organizations or grassroots groups serving women and girls in Iowa are eligible to receive the grants.



Projects that receive funding include:

- » Advocate on issues that lead to long-term change for women and girls.
- » Employ strategies designed to address causes of systemic, societal problems.
- » Address activities that enable women and/or girls as a group to achieve economic self sufficiency.
- » Offer strategies that develop positive self-images for young and adolescent girls.
- » Promote prevention, early intervention and enrichment activities.
- » Are creative, innovative and new to the community they serve in Iowa.
- » Increase the range of choices and expand opportunities for women and girls.
- » Activities that work toward the elimination of discrimination.
- » Have a strong possibility for replication or benefiting other service providers addressing the same clients or similar needs.
- » Promote the interconnectedness of issues across states, regions, or countries between the women in Iowa and the global world.

The application is due on Friday, May 29, 2009. To learn more and to access the application, [click here](#).

Funding to Support Afterschool Snacks in Schools

Programs that provide care after the school day ends may be eligible for U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) reimbursement for snacks served to children through age 18. Both the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) have Afterschool Snack Programs. The criteria for eligibility are slightly different for NSLP and CACFP, so review both options carefully to determine which is best for your situation. Consult the Afterschool Snack Program Decision Tree on the [Iowa Department of Education's website](#) for guidance. Links to details about each program are also available. For more assistance contact either Patti Harding (515-281-4754 or patti.harding@iowa.gov) or Rod Bakken (515-281-4760 or rod.bakken@iowa.gov).

Reminder

As we continue our work in promoting afterschool programs, below are words from a famous American to remind us why we do the work we do.

"A child is a person who is going to carry on whatever you have started. He is going to sit where you are sitting and when you are gone, attend to those things which you think are important. You may adopt all the policies you please, but how they will be carried out depends on him. He will assume control of your cities, states, and nations. He is going to move in and take over your churches, schools, universities, and corporations. Your books are going to be judged, accepted, or condemned by him. The fate of humanity is in his hands. So it might be well to pay him some attention."

- Abraham Lincoln